DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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Classification/Control Markings

This report contains unprocessed information. Plans and/or policies should not be evolved or modified solely on basis of this report.

1. COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AR)

2. REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3):10 USC 424

3. TITLE: (U) Political/Military - U.S. Ambassadors Session with General CAMPS

4. PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

5. DATE OF INFORMATION: 790725

6. DATE OF REPORT: 790803

7. DATE & PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 790725, Buenos Aires, Argentina

8. REFERENCES: (b)(3):10 USC 424

9. ASSESSMENT: SOURCE INFO

10. ORIGINATOR: (b)(3):10 USC 424

11. REQUEST EVALUATION (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 42 No, QPQ (country)

(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

14. SOURCE: (b)(3):10 USC 424

(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: ~~CAVEAT APPLIED TO PREVENT EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVERNMENT~~

DIRC YES ☐ NO XX

16. SUMMARY: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ This report forwards an AMEMB cable detailing the U.S. Ambassador's (R. CASTRO) impressions of Brigadier General Ramon Juan Alberto CAMPS, Argentine Army, Commander of the Remount and Veterinary Service.

(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

~~(C/NOFORN)~~ COMMENT: [redacted] was present during the luncheon between the Ambassador and BG CAMPS. A separate biographical report (CITE [redacted]) was forwarded by [redacted] after the luncheon independent of the enclosed report. Both reports reflect the same general (though independent) conclusions concerning BG CAMPS.

(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

17. SUBJECT AND AREA CODES: 901210 3412 201710 3412 202110 AR

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19. DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION DATA:

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20. ENCLOSURES:
1 Enclosure:
1. AMEMB cable CN6082, DTG 261944Z Jul 79, 1 cy 6 pgs ~~(C)~~

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21. This IR contains 1 pages.

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1 SEPT 62 EDITION MAY BE USED UNTIL 1 MAR 77

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ENCL (1) JK

44Z JUL 79 (b)(3):10 USC 424

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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~~XDS-1 7/26/09, (Castro, Raúl H.) OR-M~~

~~E.O. 12065~~ ~~XGDS-1~~

TAGS: AR, SHUM

SUBJECT: Human Rights: Ambassador's Session with General Camps (b)(3):10 USC 424

ACTION: SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 6082

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AMB
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(b)(3):10 USC 424

1. ~~(C)~~ Entire text. (b)(3):10 USC 424

2. Through [redacted] I was invited to lunch by Brig. General Ramon Juan Alberto Camps, Commander of the Remount and Veterinary Service, on Wednesday (July 25) at his nearby hdqtrs. I had never met General Camps, but his reputation of being one of General Suarez Mason's executioners had preceded him. He had his troops lined up in front of his building for me to review, which I did with the traditional "Buenos Dias, tropa de la Remonta" and they replied in unison "Buenos Días Señor Embajador." (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424 accompanied me to the lunch. We were escorted to Camp's office, where he stood in military fashion--garbed in what could be described as a take-off on a General Patton ensemble. The "remonta" has no relationship to any tank unit but it is the last vestige of what was once known as cavalry. Judging from photos of himself

DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE	TEL. EXT.	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY
AMBASSADOR CASTRO:mmp	7-26-79	200	Ambassador Castro

CLEARANCES:

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on his desk, it can be said Camps has seen much better days. It is apparent he has lost a great deal of weight, is tense and has a piercing look.

3. Camps' excuse for wanting to meet me was the sharing of a common interest--horses. He brought out several charts of his horse operations line, in and cross breeding. He took great pride in telling me he was the largest horse breeder in the country. We then undertook another key priority-lunch. He was served a special plate--for health reasons. He wouldn't touch the wine--which for an Argentine is sacrilegious, but he did partake in his share of pills. He didn't waste any time in getting to the subject of subversion, terrorism etc.

4. Subversion by ideology: Camps got great relief in telling us how he would lecture to parents of recruits from time to time. Camps' explanation to the parents and sons was that the duty of these recruits was not to die for the salvation of their country but to kill for their country. He emphasized strongly to recruits that their objective was to learn to kill. As he made these statements, he would tense up and become impervious to the world around him. He gestured with his hands while his piercing eyes gave the semblance of his trying to line up the cross-hairs in a telescopic rifle sight on his target. He then went into a dissertation of how parents, news media and dissidents were corrupting the minds of young, impressionable people. He went into weird metaphors and said

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how no one should ever question the virtue of his country. He then described how military forces had defeated terrorists on the battlefield, but now there was a new war on those of foreign ideology, such as marxism and the different shades of communism. Camps made the analogy of these people with foreign ideologies being the same as having a rotten apple in the barrel--the rotten apple had to be eliminated. He also used the analogy of a strong trunk on a tree with sick limbs etc.

5. Jacobo Timerman: Inasmuch as Camps was all involved in the threat of news media etc., I thought it was time to discuss Jacobo Timerman. I told Camps the Good Lord had given his country ~~xx~~ many plusses but yet the minuses were eating the plusses. I told him Argentina's image abroad was a black and negative one--a country categorized as one of the worst human rights violators on earth. By this time, Camps was tensing up like a fighting rooster ready for battle, but I had the floor and wasn't about to relinquish it. I explained Argentina's image could improve substantially by the release of Timerman. He beat me to the draw, as he bellowed "Timerman will never be released." Camps proceeded to berate Timerman and used every adjective and expletive to paint him as an immoral, amoral and subversive type. I asked Camps that if Timerman was such a scoundrel why did the military tribunal and the Supreme Court absolve him of all wrong doing. He

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did not meet the issue but instead replied Timerman was a dangerous subversive as he had poisoned the minds of young people by his Marxists writings in La Opinion. He then continued that so long as thousands of people died due to Timerman's encouragements by his teachings to fight an established government, Timerman can't and should never be released.

6. Timerman the "cause celebre:" I then told Camps it was beyond my comprehension of how an intelligent and sophisticated country like Argentina could assume an important role in the civilized world when key government officials were forever telling me no charges existed against Timerman because GOA couldn't prove anything against him. Camps would rebut by stating proof existed Timerman had influenced Argentines by his subversive writings. I then suggested to Camps--with tongue in cheek--he was a patriotic person. I explained it was his duty to consider the welfare of the whole nation and not only military colleagues. I told him in my experience in travelling throughout the nation of Argentina the general populace cared less than one iota about Timerman's fate. I told him I found Argentines indifferent to Timerman. Therefore, how could it be possible that one scoundrel--as he called Timerman--could be permitted to give his country such a horrible image abroad. I told him one person was not worth ~~sacrificing~~ the welfare of 26 million Argentines. I told him sacrificing

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that so long as Timerman was in custody every day would prove to be an irritant for his country on a global basis. I stated even if Timerman - if released - would write adversely on Argentina his exposures would probably be of a non-recurring nature. On the other hand, so long as he is in custody his story is being repeated on a daily basis all over the world. At this point it became apparent we were at an impasse. It was time to get to the office, so I thanked him for his invitation. As we started to walk away, he said "don't forget we (GOA) have agreed Timerman shall not be freed."

7. Future meetings with Camps: As he saw us off, Camps told me he wanted me to return to his hdqtrs. on August 8 as he was having a horse exposition on that evening. He also stated he wanted me to travel with him to Entre Ríos to spend the day visiting his horse farm. He then smiled and said "we won't discuss politics." I replied that in order to better understand problems better a dialogue about them was essential.

8. Comment: General Camps made it clear he was one of General Suarez Mason's good friends and supporters. He also described some of his experiences when he was in Charge of the Police in Buenos Aires Province. With great bravado, he told me he was the investigator of the Timerman and Gravier cases. He implied he was the Timerman expert. In all my seven

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and one half years of dealing with "riff-raff" and criminal element as a District Attorney, I have never seen anyone as potentially dangerous as this person. I left him with a feeling he was mentally sick. I also left with the feeling he is the biggest obstacle to Timerman's release. I have had many sessions with General Suarez Mason and shall have a few more, but never had I encountered an experience as this one. I shall continue to talk with Suarez Mason and Camps at every opportunity with the hope I might wear them down before they undo me.

CASTRO

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